STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

DRAFT STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 11, 2007

Prepared on March 28, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT OF DISCHARGE FROM CITY OF SANTA CRUZ'S PILOT DESALINATION PLANT UNDER THE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES FROM AQUACULTURE AND AQUARIUMS (ORDER NO. R3-2002-0076)

KEY INFORMATION

Discharger/Producer:	Long Marine Laboratory
Location:	100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz
Discharge Type:	Seawater, reconstituted seawater from pilot plant
Disposal:	Pacific Ocean
Capacity:	150,000 gallons per day
Existing Orders:	Order No. R3-2002-0076
This action:	Recognize enrollment of pilot desalination plant discharge under General Permit.

SUMMARY

Staff proposes to enroll the new discharge from the City of Santa Cruz's pilot desalination plant under the General Permit with the existing discharge from the Laboratory. Both discharges are seawater with no added pollutants and may therefore be equally controlled by the General Permit's waste discharge requirements.

DISCUSSION

On June 1, 2006, the University of California, Santa Cruz Long Marine Laboratory (Discharger) submitted a request to amend the use description they provided in 2003 with the Notice of Intent to comply with the terms and provisions of Order No. R3-2002-0076. The amendment described a new discharge of reconstituted seawater, a combination of reject brine and produced freshwater from the City of Santa Cruz's pilot desalination plant. With the University's approval, the City will introduce 50 gallons-per-minute (gpm) of reconstituted seawater into the 600 gpm flow of seawater taken from the Pacific Ocean and circulated through the laboratory. The laboratory will use the combined flows in its marine mammal pools. The discharge will be indistinguishable from the Pacific Ocean's waters, and will remain well within the limits in the General Permit.

The project, expected to last 12 months, will generate other wastewaters, which will contain low pollutant concentrations, including anti-corrosion, anti-biofouling, and anti-scaling compounds. These waste streams will discharge to holding tanks before discharging to the City's sanitary sewer for subsequent treatment at the wastewater treatment plant.

RECOMMENDATION

Concur with proposed enrollment

S:\NPDES\NPDES Facilities\Santa Cruz Co\Long Marine Lab\desalination pilot staff report.doc